

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Claims 1-15 are presently pending. Claims 8 and 14 have been amended to correct informalities. No new matter has been added. The pending claims are as follows:

1. (Original) A hood and aquarium tank combination, wherein the tank has a top opening, a front and a rear, and includes a top frame extending around the periphery of the tank, the frame designed to selectively engage and position the hood, the hood including:

a top covering element generally extending over the top opening of the tank;

a retaining hinge rotatably attached to the top covering element and removably coupled to the frame, wherein the hinge comprises:

a first portion formed with and extending from the top covering element, and

a second portion joined to the first portion and selectively engaging the frame such that the hood can rotate through an angle of at least 90° relative to the tank;

a lamp retaining mechanism located on the top covering element adjacent to the top opening of the tank and extending towards the top opening of the tank, the lamp retaining mechanism configured to hold a bulb in an alignment substantially parallel to the top covering element; and

a generally cylindrical collar joined to the lamp retaining mechanism and engaging a portion of the bulb when the bulb is coupled with the lamp retaining mechanism, the collar inhibiting the passage of water around the bulb and into a socket portion of the lamp retaining mechanism.

2. (Original) The hood and aquarium tank combination as in claim 1, wherein the top covering element is composed of a first portion located towards the front of the tank, and a second, generally arcuate portion located towards the rear of the tank.
3. (Original) The hood and aquarium tank combination as in claim 1, wherein the collar is a generally cylindrical, heat-resistant elastomer collar.
4. (Original) The hood and aquarium tank combination as in claim 1, wherein the hood includes a socket cover that is disposed about at least a portion of the lamp retaining mechanism and the collar.
5. (Original) The hood and aquarium tank combination as in claim 1, wherein the top covering element defines a plurality of openings generally located above the lamp retaining mechanism.
6. (Original) The hood and aquarium tank combination as in claim 1, wherein the top covering element includes a section that may be selectively removed so that a tank accessory may be inserted through the hood and into the tank.
7. (Original) The hood and aquarium tank combination as in claim 1, wherein the top covering element further defines an opening through which a user may add food to the tank.
8. (Currently Amended) An aquarium hood for covering a top opening of an aquarium tank, the hood including:

a top covering element having a generally flat front portion and a generally arcuate rear portion;

a lamp retaining mechanism located on the top covering element and extending towards the top opening of the tank, the lamp retaining mechanism configured to hold a bulb in alignment substantially parallel to the top covering element;

a reflector panel located adjacent to the lamp retaining mechanism; and

a generally cylindrical collar joined to the lamp retaining mechanism and engaging a portion of the bulb when the bulb is coupled with the lamp retaining mechanism, the collar inhibiting the passage of water around the bulb and into a socket portion of the lamp retaining mechanism.

9. (Original) The hood as in claim 8, wherein the collar is generally cylindrical and heat-resistant.

10. (Original) The hood as in claim 8, wherein the top covering element defines a plurality of openings generally located above the lamp retaining mechanism.

11. (Original) The hood as in claim 8, wherein the hood includes a socket cover disposed about at least a portion of the lamp retaining mechanism and the collar.

12. (Original) The hood as in claim 8, wherein the hood includes a selectively removable section, such that a tank accessory may be inserted through the top covering element and into the tank.

13. (Original) The hood as in claim 8, further including means for rotatably joining the hood to the aquarium.

14. (Currently Amended) An aquarium hood for covering a top opening of an aquarium tank, the hood including:

a top covering element having a generally flat front portion and a generally arcuate rear portion;

a lamp retaining mechanism located on the top covering element and extending towards the top opening of the tank, the lamp retaining mechanism configured to hold a bulb in alignment substantially parallel to the top covering element;

a reflector panel located adjacent to the lamp retaining mechanism;

a generally cylindrical collar joined to the lamp retaining mechanism and engaging a portion of the bulb when the bulb is coupled with the lamp retaining mechanism, the collar inhibiting the passage of water around the bulb and into a socket portion of the lamp retaining mechanism; and

means for rotatably coupling the hood to an aquarium.

15. (Original) The hood as in claim 14, wherein the means for rotatably coupling the hood to an aquarium comprises a retaining hinge configured to rotatably attach the hood to the aquarium.